



# SIPA

## Bulletin

For Circulation to Members only

VOL. 18 NO.1

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 97

BIMONTHLY

**SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION**  
(FOUNDED 1956)  
(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

### Editorial

Wish you all members, A Happy Prosperous New Year 1997.

The Year is a busy year for philatelists of our Country. India is celebrating the completion of 50 years of its Independence. The Philatelic Society of India, the oldest Society in Asia, is completely 100 Years of useful existence and its house journal also complets its hundred years. Besides, State Level exhibitions are being held at Delhi "Dakiana"97", February 1997.

There are two International Exhibitions "Hong Kong 97" 11th Asian International Exhibition from 12 to 16 Feb. 1997 at Hong Kong, and also "Pacific"97" in Sanfrancisco, California from 29th May - 8 June 97. In India, Philatelic Society of India with the support of the Philatelic Congress of India, The Department Posts, Govt. of India and support of the various societies. In hosting NATIONAL at World Centre, Bombay from 27 - 31 March 1997 in about 800 frames. So Philatelists, Collectors & Dealers will be actively engaged in participating in the above exhibition educate themselves and make new acquaintances. We wish them all success.

In Hong Kong 97, 11th Asian International exhibition held at Hong Kong, your editor, Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das. took with him as Commissioner from India, seven Indian Exhibits.

### The following are the awards for the exhibitors :

1. G. Madan Mohan Das - Large Silver 78  
Research Study of Indian Classics -
2. G. Balakrishna Das - Indian Convention States - Silver -74

3. Mr. H.S. Bisani - Gwalior State - Silver - 72
4. Mr. V.K. Mohan - Indore State cancellations - Silver - 70
5. Mr. Daniel Monthero - Water Birds - Silver Bronze - 66
6. Jahab - A.Ravoof - Refugee Relief study - Bronze - 64
7. Miss. Madhini Balasundram - Modern Olympics - Certificate of Participation - 55

### Congratulation to all the award Winners

#### A Report,

A total of 236 exhibits were adjudged by the Jury resulting in three large gold, 11 gold, and 220 other awards. One exhibit was disqualified for Inclusion of forged philatelic material. Four exhibits were down graded for the same reason.

The India Jury consisted of Sri D.N. Jatia, R.D.P. F.I.P. President, Sri M.G. PITHE and Mr. A.R. Singhee. The entire jury consisted of 27 jury members from other countries. The Philatelic Congress of India gave a Special Award. "Thanjor Plaque" and was awarded to Mr. William Kwan for his Hong Kong collection.

"Grand Prix Hong Kong - Design, Proofs Specimens & Arachival Material of Hong Kong."

We express our appreciation to Organising Committee for the various facilities for our comfortable stay to perform our duties, Hospitalkly was superb for all the days nearly 20 / 30 thousand people visited the exhibition. The Postal Department opened 30 stalls for sale of stamps and made hectic sales. Once again I express my appreciation for the facilities placed for us the organising committee.

### SIPA MEETINGS :

- Second Sunday of every month Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road, Head Post Office, Madras - 600 002. (10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.)  
First and third Sunday of every month - Auction meetings at our Library Hall at 6 Nanian Street, Madras - 3. (Timing 10.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.)  
SIPA Library Open Tuesday & Sunday, 6 Nannain Street, Madras - 3. (7.00 p.m. top 8.00 p.m.)

## PROVISIONAL POSTAL STATIONERY ISSUES

by M. Azfar Hussien Beg, Bhopal

With the discontinuation of the Express Delivery postal service, which has been replaced by a Recorded Delivery system, unsold stocks of the Express Delivery envelopes have become obsolete, and therefore of no commercial use. With a view to mitigate the then existing shortage of 25p embossed envelopes, it was decided by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, New Delhi, under his office letter No. 30-44/74--PHIL dated the 9th January, 1975, addressed to all Heads of Circles and others concerned (Appendix B) that the stocks of 28p Express Delivery envelopes (Photo 1) may be surcharged '25P'.

Madhya Pradesh Postal Circle was the first to bring out the surcharged Postal Stationery. The surcharge has been done on the 28p Express Delivery envelopes in two lines. The first line reads "Twenty Five Paise" and the second below it gives the figure "0.25". The inscription "EXPRESS DELIVERY" on the left has been obliterated by four horizontal lines formed of thin, vertical lines with a block after every two thin lines (Photo 2). The overprinting was done locally at the Krishak Jagat Press, Bhopal. The lead given by the M.P. Postal Circle is now being followed by other States. Gujarat State has surcharged the 40p Express Delivery envelopes. Kerala State has also surcharged the 28p Express Delivery envelopes. It is hoped that other States where stocks of the 28p/40p Express Delivery envelopes exist will also be bringing out overprinted provisional postal stationery, thus providing to not only collectors of postal stationery an interesting item for collection, but also providing the postal historians and the students of this group of philately an absorbing subject for study. However, let us hope that the Director General does not permit any State to bring out hand-struck rubber stamped surcharging, to avoid the chaos created by the Refugee Relief rubber stamped varieties.

At first 1,20,00 envelopes were initially overprinted, as authorised by the Director General and officially put on sale on the 14th January 1975. As the M.P. Postal Circle takes a keen interest in

promoting philately in the State, the first day of sale was restricted to the Philatelic Bureau, Bhopal. Due advanced publicity was made through newspaper about the release on over printed postal stationery envelopes. However, not many stamp collectors availed of the opportunity to get first day cancellations on this important provisional local issue and some 300 first day cancellations only were made that day. Subsequently the overprinted envelopes were made available to all post offices in Bhopal and supplies were also made to big towns in the State.

After a few days, a second print was brought out (Photo 3), but its exact date of issue has not so far been established. The second print can easily be distinguished from the first through following differences :-

First Printing : letters are thin and sharp, Figure "5" of "25" appears below "ve" of "Five" in the upper line ; Second Printing : letters are thick and have less space between them. Figure "5" of "25" appears below "e" of "Five" in the upper line.

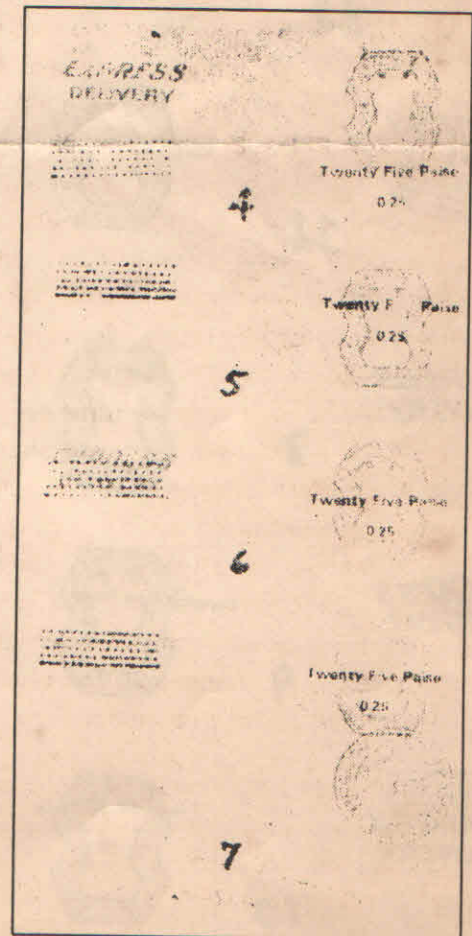
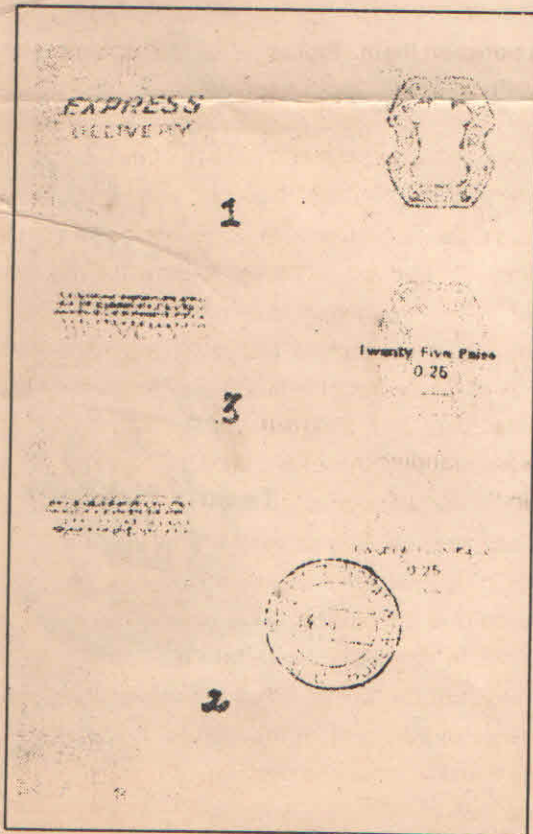
A misunderstanding prevails about a so-called error "Paise" or "Palso" found in both the first and second prints. Over-inking in some copies has caused the letters "l" and "e" of "Paise" to look like the letters "l" and "o", thus giving the impression "Paise" or "Palso". Some collectors are of the view that this is an error of printing. It, therefore, seems necessary to explain this formation and to clarify the misunderstanding. A closer and detailed study reveals that in the normal examples the distance between the point and vertical line of the letter "i" is less than a quarter of a millimetre. Over-inking has very easily absorbed this tiny space. This is also the reason for the letter "e" to look like letter "o". This is further substantiated by the fact that whenever this type of formation occurs, all other letters are also rather thicker than the normal examples. Not only the letters "i" and "e" of "Paise", but also the letters "e" of "Twenty" and "Five" or "i" of Five" look like the letters

"o" and "l". This type of formation has also been seen in the third prints as well. The writer always stands to be corrected, thankfully, if experts decide contrary to his findings after a scientific examination and declare that the so-called errors are not a result of rather a generous supply of ink. One more factor is to be kept in view. Only one letter-press was used each for the first and second prints. If the compositor had made a mistake, it should be constant in all copies and not in a very small number as compared to the total quantity printed.

It was found that some more stocks of the 28p Express Delivery envelopes were still available. They were also similarly surcharged in the same style as the first two prints. The third issue was officially put on sale on the 15th September 1975 (Photo 4). Supplies were also made to all post offices in Bhopal and other important towns in the State.

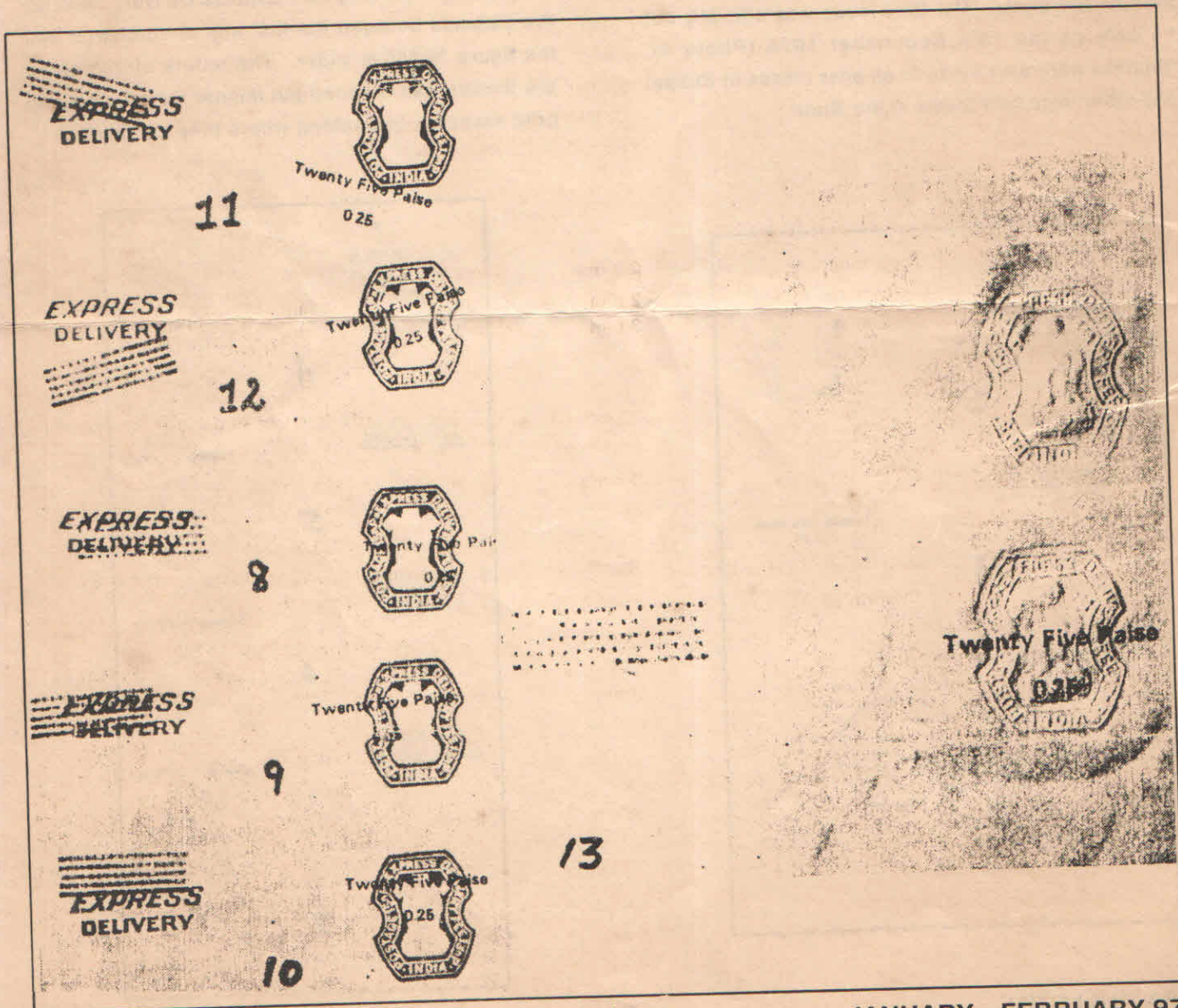
The third issue coincided with a 15p Post Card with Life Insurance advertisement issued the same day. Collectors of postal stationery who visited the Philatelic Bureau, Bhopal for purchasing the post cards with first day cancellation, also purchased the overprinted postal stationery. At a rough estimate, some 800 envelopes received the firstday cancellation that day.

The third printing was also made at the Krishak Jagat Press, Bhopal. A total quantity of 88,472 envelopes was sent for overprinting in small lots. Obvious differences in the third print as compared to the earlier two prints are that (1) it has five lines obliterating the inscription "Express Delivery," and (2) the distance between the first line of surcharge and the figure "0.25" is wider. The letters of surcharge are thicker than the first, but thinner than the second print except in one setting where they are bolder.



Several type-press settings are clearly noticed. The most obvious difference which catches the eye is the position of the figure "0.25" below "Twenty Five Paise". In one setting, the figure "0" begins marginally below the right off-shoot of "y" of "Twenty" and the figure "5" is entirely below the letter "v" of "Five" (Photo 4). In another setting the figure "0" begins away from "Y" to the right and the figures "5" is also slightly away from "v" (Photo 5). In yet another setting, although the figures "0" and "5" are in the same position as in setting II, the surcharge "Twenty Five Paise" is bolder, particularly "Twenty" is very prominent (Photo 7). In other settings, the measurements differ infinitesimally. the Appendix A gives details of three settings only which are easily visible.

In all the three prints, varieties exist showing shifted and slanting overprints resulting from faulty feeding. The misplacements are so common that perfectly well centred copy will be a more proud possession for the serious collector. In one example, the letter "e" of "Paise" has gone out of the envelope (Photo 8), whereas in quite a few others the overprint has so much shifted to the left that the lines obliterating the inscription "Express/Delivery" have gone out (Photo 9). In some, the overprint is below the Ashok Pillar (Photo 6), in others it has gone above the inscription "Express/Delivery" (Photo 10). Overprints slanting diagonally also exists (Photos 11 and 12). The lines obliterating "Express/Delivery" do not show much



of a uniformity in the distance between each of them. In some copies, the thin lines are even broken in halves or even less and show an impression more like dots. A variety exists where the first horizontal line is broken in the middle.

The only error so far found is in the third setting of the third print where the letters "live" of "Five" are missing (Photo 7). A partial double print and one copy in which the overprint has once been done horizontally, as in normal copies, and another time diagonally has also been seen. A few prints on Albinos have also been found (Photo 13).

	First Print	Appendix A			Setting III
		Second Print	Setting I	Thrid Print Setting II	
Length of Surcharge :					
Twenty Five Paise	33.5 mm	33 mm	37 mm	37.5 mm	37 mm
Figure 0.25	8 mm	8 mm	7.5 mm	7.5 mm	8 mm
Distance between First and second lines of surcharge	2.5 mm	2 mm	5.5 mm	5.5 mm	5.5 mm
Thickness of letters	Less than half mm.	more than half mm, but less than 1 mm	more than half mm, but thicker than I and thinner than II	same as in Setting I	Capital T nearly 1 mm, all letters bolder than Settings I and II.
Height of Surcharge :					
Capital letters	3 mm	2.5 mm	3 mm	3 mm	3 mm
Small letters	2 mm	2 mm	2 mm	2 mm	2 mm
Figure 0.25	3 mm	3 mm	3 mm	3 mm	3 mm
Length of obliterating lines :					
1st line	36 mm	37 mm	33 mm	33.5 mm	33.5 mm
2nd line	36 mm	36.5 mm	32.5 mm	32.5 mm	33 mm
3rd line	36 mm	36 mm	32 mm	31.5 mm	33 mm
4th line	36 mm	37 mm	33 mm	33 mm	33.5 mm
5th line	-	-	33.5 mm	33 mm	33.5 mm
(the difference in the length of lines, even in the same setting, is due to missing vertical lines either on the left or on right, or on both sides).					
Length of vertical lines forming the obliterating lines	1mm	1mm	1mm	1mm	1mm
Distance horizontally between surchage "Twenty Five Paise" and the obliterating lines	36.5 mm	36 mm	39.5 mm	39.5 mm	39.5 mm
Distance from the base of "Twenty Five Paise" to the base of obliterating lines	4.5 mm	5 mm	1 mm	1 mm	1 mm

Copy of a Communication letter No.30-44/74-PHIL dated 9-1-75 from Office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, New Delhi 110001 addressed to All Heads of Circles and others concerned.

D.G.P.O. Circular

Subject : - Overprinting old Express Delivery envelopes

To meet the shortage of embossed envelopes to some extent, it has been decided that the old Express Delivery envelopes (28P value) may be overprinted '25P'. The quantity of such Express Delivery envelopes are 1,20,000. These will be available for sale through the important Post Offices in the M.P. Circle with effect from 14th January, 1975.

Due publicity may kindly be arranged.

A Postal Notice also accompains.

Postal Notice

Subject :- Overprinting old Express Delivery envelopes

To meet the shortage of embossed envelopes to some extent, it has been decided that the old Express Delivery envelopes (28 P value) may be overprinted 25P. The quantity of such Express Delivery envelopes are 1,20,000. These will be available for sale through important post offices in Madhya Pradesh Circle with effect from 14-1-75.

No. Tech. 11-134/Rig/13

Dated at Bhopal the 13-1-75.

Copy forwarded to :-

1. All Sr./Other Supdt. of Post Offices in M.P. Circle.
2. All Head Postmasters in M.P. Circle.
3. All Sr/Other Supdt. R.S. in M.P. Circle.
4. The Manager, R.L.O., Nagpur.

for information and necessary action

Sd. V.N. Deshpande  
for Postmaster General,  
M.P. Circle.  
Dated 4-10-75.

No. Tech 21-134/Rig.

Copy to Shri M.A.H. Beg, President, M.P. Philatelic Society, Bhopal with reference to his letter dated 23-7-75.

Sd.  
Assistant Director (Wireless)  
M.P. Circle, Bhopal.

1.1.1997

Printed 0.7 Million

800 P



The Civil Engineering College at Roorkee was formally established with the issuance of a notification by the Government of North West Province on 25th November, 1847, to meet the demand for personnel skilled in civil construction.

The first admissions to the Roorkee college were made on 1st January, 1848. In 1854, the college was renamed as "Thomson College of Civil Engineering at Roorkee" in memory of James Thomason who as Lt. Governor of North West Provinces had been primarily responsible for its establishment.

The College continued to make steady progress to meet the requirement of civil engineering personnel particularly for the major projects. It was elevated to the status of a University by an Act of U.P. Legislature in 1948 in recognition of its past performance and its potential and keeping in view the needs of modern India. The University was presented its Charter on 25th November 1949 in the presence of the first Prime Minister of India, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru elevating the erstwhile college to the first engineering university of independent India.

Since its establishment, the University of Roorkee has played a vital role in providing the technical manpower and knowledge to the country and in the pursuit of research, the University ranks amongst the best technological institutions in the world and has contributed to all sectors of technological development.

There are special programmes of cooperation through which the University offers engineering and science education to a large number of overseas students, especially from developing nations.

The Department of Post is happy to issue this stamp to mark the sesquicentennial celebrations of the Roorkee University and also of Civil Engineering and higher technical education in the country.

## DR. VRINDAVAN LAL VERMA

9.1.1997

Printed 0.4 Million

200 P



Dr. Vrindavan Lal Verma was born in Jhansi on 9th January, 1889. He wrote in his lifetime more than 80 historical/social novels, plays and collections of short stories. Born and brought up in the Bundelkhand region, an area rich in history, he used it as the background, very effectively in a large number of his novels and plays.

For his contribution to the stream of the historical novel, he came to be known as the "Walter Scot" of India. He used this medium to portray existing social evils, particularly the rigidity of the caste system, evils of superstitions. In his condemnation of these restricting social norms, he was a man ahead of his times.

Dr. Vrindavan Lal Verma's role was therefore not merely that of a novelist/writer but of a social reformer and a humanist, who sought to shape and guide the perceptions of his readers and thereby change the face of society.

In 1908, he wrote a play "Senapati Udai," where he invoked the people to take up arms against British rule. This book was banned and he was placed under close scrutiny. This however did not deter him. In 1922 he started a newspaper called "Swadhin" (Independent).

About his writing he has said, "When I see social suppression.....I raise my pen." He was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 1965. This was only a culmination of the hosts of awards, and honours, conferred on him earlier including the Sahitya Academy Award.

His work continues to be relevant even today. This, more than anything is evidence of his greatness as a writer and a thinker.

A number of his works were translated into various foreign languages. Of particular significance is his novel "Jhansi Ki Rani, Laxmibai" who in his words "Fought for independence, died for independence and was the foundation stone for independence."

The first day cover appropriately, carries a picture of the Jhansi Fort, immortalized through the writings of Dr. Verma.

The Department of Post is happy to issue a stamp in honour of this great novelist who has a special place in Hindi literature.

## SILVER JUBILEE OF APS CORPS

22.1.1997

Printed 0.7 Million

500 P



Army Postal Service Corps - a small yet significant service Component of the Indian. Army traces its lineage to the Field Post Office that accompanied the Expeditionary Force to Persia in the year 1856. The personnel provided by the Department of Post during the Second World War were granted combatant status.

Earlier, APS functioned as a wing of the Army Service Corps. It was given independent status on 01 March, 1972 in recognition of its specific role in boosting and improving the communication network of the Indian Armed Forces. The Soldier's mail never misses him wherever he is placed--be it on the dizzy heights of snowbound Siachen, amidst the scorching sands of the Thar, or even in the impenetrable forests of Arunchal. The personnel of the Corps move closely not only with the Army but also the Air Force and the Para Military Forces providing much needed postal services to boost their morale.

Over the years, the Corps introduced and enlarged the scope and dimension of the service to include Postal Life Insurance, Savings Bank and now virtually encompasses the entire range of Postal services available in Civil Post Offices. The work relating to Postal Life Insurance and Savings Bank has now been computerized. Automatized handling, has speeded up transmission of telegrams. The latest inclusion in this field is that 56 APO and 99 APO have been provided with VSAT stations providing the benefits of Satellite Money Order Service to the troops.

Army Postal Service also provides an excellent coverage for mails to Indian segments of UN Contingents. APS elements have accompanied UN Missions to Mozambique, Somalia, Rwanda and are presently deployed with the contingents at Angola. The Corps has earned international acclaim for providing fast and uninterrupted mail service to our troops in distant lands.

Philatelic activity of the Department of Post also reflects the significant role of our defence force through stamps on various significant themes. APS, on its own, also brings out a good number of special APS first day covers to commemorate landmarks. Squarons and Flag Ships of the Defence Force like Centenary, Reunion and other momentous occasions and achievements.

The Department of Post is happy to release a special commemorative stamp to mark the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Army Postal Service Corps.

# NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

23.1.1997

Printed 0.4 Million

JO P



"To my countrymen I say, 'Forget not that the greatest curse for a man is to remain a slave. Forget not that the grossest crime is to compromise with injustice and wrong. Remember the eternal law-you must give life, if you want to get it. And rememebr that the highest virtue is to battle against iniquity, no matter what the cost may be'."

These lines by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose contain the essence of his life's philosophy, a philosophy which permeated his actions and ensured a place of pre-eminence for him in the history of India's struggle for freedom.

Born on January 23, 1897, Subhas Chandra Bose was deeply influenced by the philosophy of Swami Vivekananda. He appeared for the Indian Civil Service competitive examination in 1920, and came out fourth in order of merit. He however resigned, responding to Mahatma Gandhi's call to the nation, for sacrifice, in the wake of Jalianwala Bagh massacre.

In June 1940 at the Nagpur Session of the All India Forward Block, he called for immediate establishment of a provisional National Government. Soon after he was arrested and sent to jail. While in prison, he resorted to hunger strike whereupon he was released and kept under house arrest. His dramatic escape thereafter is recorded in history.

Thereafter, Subhash Chandra Bose took over from Rash Bihari Bose the leadership of the Indian Independence Movement in East Asia, and organised the "Azad Hind Fauz" - "Indian National Army" and became its supreme Commander. He proclaimed the Provisional Government of Azad Hind on October 21, 1943. A rare personality in contemporary history, Subhas Chandra Bose was at once deeply involved in the spiritual history of India and actively concerned with the modern, social and technological advances around the world. He was driven by an overpowering sense of mission and sought to inspire his compatriots with the same dedication to the cause. In this he succeeded in a large measure and was hailed as Netaji, the leader.

Gandhiji's words, bear eloquent testimony to Netaji's place of eminence, in the freedom struggle of this country -

"Netaji's name is one to conjure with. His patriotism is second to none. His bravery shines through all his actions..."

"His was a life full of perilous adventure and romance. His daring was unequaled.

"He has rendered a signal service to India by giving the Indian soldier a new vision and a new ideal.

"The lesson that Netaji and his army bring to us is one of self-sacrifice, unity irrespective of class and community, and discipline. If our adoration will be wise and discriminating, we will rightly copy this trinity of virtues.....Then we will be able to stand erect before the world".

The Department of Post deems it a great privilege to issue this speical commenorative stamp to mark the birth anniversary of Netaji Sabhas Chandra Bose.

SIPA BULLETIN

# JOSE MARTI

28.1.1997

Printed 0.7 Million

1100 P



Jose Marti was born in a modest home in Cuba on January 28, 1853. He dedicated his life to the cause of liberation of Cuba from the domination of the Spanish Empire. He began to write at a very early age and his revolutionary ideas moulded the thoughts of generations of his people. Fidel Castro aptly called him the intellectual author of the Cuban Revolution.

At the tender age of 17 he was imprisoned in very difficult conditions and wrote "The Political Prisoner in Cuba", a very thought provoking condemnation of colonisers.

In 1892 he founded the Cuban Revolutionary Party with the avowed objective, "to attain absolute independence of the Isle of Cuba and to foster and help the independence of Puerto Rico. The same year he brought out the newspaper 'Patria'.

On the eve of his horoic death Jose Marti expressed to his friend Manuel Mercado that independence was the driving force in his life. He has promoted through his multiple works a number of economic mesures that range from redistribution of land to installation of an economic regime based upon small land holdings. He fought to eradicate all discrimination based on the colour, creed, region etc.

Perhaps, the most poignant tribute to Jose Marti comes from the pen of Nicolas Guillen :-

No, think not that his voice is a whisper  
Or his hands like mere shadows  
Or that his look is like a shivering dewdrop on a rose petal.  
His voice and hands  
Have the power to crush rock and iron.  
His burning eyes can penetrate the darkest woods.  
Touch him-you will feel the burning fire.  
Take his hand - you wil realise  
That all of Cuba fits in it  
Like a bird taking shelter from the storm.  
Look at his eyes - and you will be blinded by their fire.  
But follow his eyes in the dark of night,  
For his brilliance will light the way.

The Department of Post is happy to issue a stamp in honour of this international Cuban hero.



# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY SPECIALISED CONFERENCE ON "TOWARDS PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN POLITICS"

15.2.1997

Printed 0.7 Million

500 P



The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), established in 1889, is the world organisation of Parliaments of sovereign States. It is the focal point for world-wide Parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative institutions.

The IPU deals with issues of significance before the international community and measures have been taken by Governments all over the world as a result of the recommendations adopted by the IPU.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, besides its biennial Conferences, also holds specialised Conferences on various issues. As envisaged by the IPU in March, 1994, the specialised Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the theme "Towards Partnership between Men and Women in Politics", is being held at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi from 14 to 18 February, 1997. The Conference is the first world-wide high-level political meeting on the follow-up to one of the chapters of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The New Delhi Conference is part of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's activities to promote representative democracy, and it aims to examine how the human society as a whole can benefit from a new contract for politics based on partnership and to provide an opportunity to reflect on various ways of achieving democracy, as defined by IPU in 1992: "The concept of democracy will only assume true and dynamic significance when policies and national legislation are decided upon jointly by men and women with equitable regard for the interests and aptitudes of both halves of the population."

This Specialized Conference intends to provide a forum for dialogue between men and women from various countries, all having an interest in identifying the means to reinforce the bases and working of representative democracy. The debates will form the subject of a declaration by the IPU President summarizing the content of the discussions and referring to practical proposals put forward in the debates to ensure a real partnership between men and women in politics.

India has had a long association with the IPU, having hosted the 57th and 89th IPU, Conference during 1969 and 1993, respectively.

The Department of Post is happy to release a special commemorative stamp to mark this Specialized Inter-Parliamentary Conference in New Delhi. The stamp depicts the logo of the Conference and the First Day Cover shows the venue of the inauguration, the Central Hall of Parliament House.

SIPA BULLETIN

## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

25.1.1997

Printed 0.7 Million

800 P



St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk) situated at Egmore, Madras, is considered to be the most beautiful neo-classical church in India. The building modelled along the lines of St. Martin-in-the Fields at London, presents a lovely profile of Georgian Church Architecture. It was consecrated on 25th February 1821.

Its imposing exterior, perfect symmetry & soaring spire, evoke exclamations of wonder from passersby who see it for the first time.

The church steeple is 166 1/2 feet high, taller by 11 1/2 feet than that of St. Martin's. Its interior dome is 51 feet in diameter, carried on 16 fluted corinthian columns. The complex dome is also supported by an angular arch. The church foundations are built on 150 brick and pottery wells-then a substitute for the pilework. The stucco of the dome is coloured in lapis lazuli, giving the illusion of an azure sky.

This Church established for the worship of the Scottish Community, then living in Madras, has since Independence been administered and used by the Indian Christian Community.

It was a school started in this church in 1835 which grew to become the present Madras Christian College. The Church also has a tradition of supporting the growth of music. Famous musicians such as Dr. Norman Lindsay, Sir Charles McPherson, and Victor Paranjothi have all ministered in this Church and led the musical programmes.

This Church also has regular ongoing programmes for Leprosy mission, school for the mentally disabled, adult education, vocational education, free day care centres for the poor, village clinic and rural development.

The Department of Post is happy to issue a special postage stamp on St. Andrew's Church.

## MORARJI DESAI

28.2.1997

Printed 0.4 Million

100 P



Morarji Rachhodji Desai was born on February 29, 1896 at village Bhadeli, near Bulsar in the Surat Distt. of Gujarat in a middle-class family. In response to the call of Mahatma Gandhi to government servants to give up their jobs, Morarji resigned his post of Deputy Collector in 1930 and joined the Civil Disobedience movement. During the next four years he was thrice imprisoned for participating in the freedom movement.

Morarji was elected as a Member of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee and also made its Secretary in which capacity he continued for six years 1931-37 and again from 1939-46. In 1937 he was elected to Bombay Legislative Assembly and was Minister for Revenue and Forests in the first Congress Government (1937-39). After relinquishing office in 1939 he participated in the individual Civil Disobedience Movement and was later detained for about three years in connection with the 1942 movement.

After the first General Election in 1952 he became the Chief Minister of Bombay and was instrumental in introducing far reaching reforms in the land revenue and administration and also in police and jail reorganisation. His administration in Bombay State was known for its efficiency, strength and integrity. In 1956 he joined the Union Cabinet as Minister for Commerce and Consumer and Heavy Industries. Later he was redesignated as Minister for Commerce and Industry. In 1958, he took over the portfolio of Finance.

Defence through development, creation of a climate of confidence and initiative, export promotion and austerity in Govt. administration, public corporations and companies in the private sector formed the main theme of his economic and fiscal policies. He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1962 and 1967 General Elections from Surat. He became the Union Minister for Finance in 1962 in Nehru's Cabinet, but for strengthening the stability of the Congress Party he volunteered to retire under the Kamaraj Plan in August, 1963. He was the Chairman of the Administrative Reforms Commission during 1966-67.

He was Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister in Indira Gandhi's Cabinet. Finally, he served the country as Prime Minister.

He was a firm believer in Swadeshi and was closely connected with Gujarat Vidyapeeth at Ahmedabad and Lok Bharathi a rural University in Gujarat, and also with several cultural, religious, academic and social bodies. His whole career is a record of self-confidence, courage, fearlessness and guarded innovations based on Gandhian concepts. What Morarjee stood for is best illustrated by the message he gave to the youth of India.

"The youth should lead a fearless and truthful life. They should not accept anything which was against the values of the nation. They should aim high and serve the motherland with dedication.

He was awarded in recognition of his long and outstanding service to the nation the highest civilian award of India, 'the Bharat Ratna'. He died on April 10, 1995 a little short of his 100th birthday.

The Department of Post honours his memory with the issue of this special commemorative postage stamp on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

## INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINES :

The Department of Post feels happy to bring out a set of four stamps sometime in March/April, 1997, which would depict the medicinal plants of Tulsi, Haridra, sarpagandha and Ghrithkumari. Haridra is used in India since time immemorial in religious festivals and as a medicine. It is considered as aromatic, stimulant, cooling and is used in Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani systems of medicine.

Tulsi, commonly cultivated in gardens and frequently found on escapes possesses diaphoretic, antiperiodic, stimulating and expectorant properties.

Sarpagandha, an erect evergreen under shrub is widely distributed in the sub Himalayan tract. The root is used for treatment of hypertension, fever, wounds, colic, insomnia, epilepsy, giddiness, dyspepsia and vitiated conditions of Kapha and Vata.

The plant Ghrithkumari is found in a semi-wild stage in all parts from the dry westward valleys of Himalayas upto Kanyakumari. The juice is used in dyspepsia, burns, colic, hepatopathy, spenopathy, skin diseases and large number of other ailments.

There is good news for the philatelists in and around Nasik. The department has opened a new philatelic Bureau at Nasik. H.O., which has become functional w.e.f. 1.1.97.

### Cost of First Day Cover :

Due to the increased production cost of the First Day Cover, the Department was constrained to increase the sale price of F.D.C. to Rs. 2/- w.e.f. 1.1.97.

### Good News For Autograph Collectors

Contact For :  
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## PACIFIC 97

### USIS ISSUES FIRST TRIANGULAR STAMPS By Jim Bownan.

On 31 October, Prior to the opening of the ASD/Postage Stamp Mega Event in New York City, the United States Postal Service unveiled the artwork for a series of issues promoting World Philatelic Exhibition, PACIFIC 97. The first stamps to be issued are two triangular issues the first such from the USPS. The designs feature the two modes by which mail arrived in San Francisco during the early 18's -by stagecoach and by sea.

In addition to these two designs, to have their First Day ceremony at the Spring 1997 ASDA Mega-Event in march, four additional issues will be released during PACIFIC 97. They are two postal cards and two souvenir sheets, each the one valued to meet a different rate.

The card (domestic rate, indicum is an afternoon view of San Francisco beyond the north tower of the Golden Gate Bridge. The 4 card (rate for cards to Canada indicum is a view looking westward toward the sun setting behind the Golden Gate.

The two Souvenir sheets feature the United States' first two stamps the 5¢ Franklin and the 1 Washington. these designs have been revalued at 5¢ and 6¢ respectively, and will appear in sheetlets of 12. The 5¢ RATE IS FOR postcards mailed else-where in the World 6¢ is the air mail letter rate for one-half once outside North America.

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## INDIA POST

### PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF CANCELLATION CACHETS

It has been decided to decentralise the job of production and supply of cancellation cachets from the Directorate to the circle level for all issues of special commemorative stamps from 1.3.97 onwards. The cancellation cachets for special issues of stamps will be got manufactured by the Office locally and made available to the Philatelic Bureaus under its administrative control prior to the date of release of the stamp. The designs of the cancellations cachets will be finalised by the Directorate and will be sent well in advance of the actual release date, the cost of production of cancellation cachets will be met from the budget allocation made to the respective circles. Interesting isn't it yes Collectors know a new avenue opens for you, search and study the cancellations of all Philatelic countries and I assure you will find a size difference or some other difference in the cachets. And form a good study and exhibit.

## PHILATELIC TRADE & PUBLICATIONS PVT. LTD. 70/16, 2ND MAIN ROAD VYALIKAVAL, BANGALORE-56 003.

Postal Auction No.1 on 2.11.96. The 202 lots are classified as India Pre-Independence, Post Independence, States, Fiseals and other Countries. The lots are 1854 1/2 a Die I used and on envelope. 1 a Die II and similar other lots in good colours. A good selection of lots for Postal history collectors incld. Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, King George V and VI, Post Independence issues are many sheet and FDC and Definitive on FDC. States are saurashtra & Kishangarh. The other Countries lot are reasonably priced quite a mixed lot described for interest to the thematic collectors, but unfortunately many CTo are also listed.

## POSTAL TARIFF REVISED

The Government has raised the postal tariff to reduce the subsidy element which had crossed over Rs.600 crores this year.

The Finance Minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, announced during his Budget speech that the price of ordinary post card is being raised from 15 paise to 25 paise and the printed post card to Rs.1.50. The price of inland letter has been raised from 75 paise to Rs.1 and the envelope from Re.1 to Rs.2.

The rate of parcels have been increased from a minimum of Rs.6 to Rs.8. Every additional 500 grams would cost Rs.8 instead of the present Rs.6. Registered postal articles have also been raised from Rs.8 to Rs.10.

Postal insurance rate has also been raised from a minimum of Rs.4 to Rs.8, if the insurance does not exceed Rs.200. For every additional Rs.100 or fraction in excess of Rs.200 would attract an additional charge of Rs.4.

The proposed revisions are estimated to yield an additional revenue of Rs.367 crores in full year and Rs.305 crores during 1997-98. This modest increase is necessary for the development of postal services and in partially bridging the deficit on the numerous services being provided by trhe Postel department, the Finance Minster observed. The other increases in postal tariff are as follows: letters with over 20 grams, every additional 20 grams or fraction therof-Rs 2; book, pattern and sample packets- for the first 50 grams Re.1, for every additional 100 grams or fraction therof Rs. 2 extra; the reply postal card rate have been increased from 30 paise to 50 paise.

Earlier in the day, the Minister of Communications, Mr.Beni Prasad Verma, told Parliament that the Department of Posts has been incurring heavy loses in as many as 18 out of 23 services and heavy subsidies were being provided to run these services. The amount of subsidy provided for the 18 losing postal services range from two to 93 per cent of the cost of operating these services.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 97

Mr. Verma pointed out that the projections for 1996-97 indicated that the post card had a subsidy element of up to 93 per cent of its cost of operation, printed post card with 60 per cent, letter card up to 67 per cent, printed books about 64 per cent, book pattern and sample packets about 42 per cent, periodicals 70 per cent and value payable post 70 per cent.

## MAYOR RELEASES STAMP ON

### ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

The Chennai Mayor, Mr. M. K. Stalin, today released a postal stamp on the St. Andrew's Church (Kirk), Egmore, to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the church.

Modelled on the lines of the St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, the church was consecrated on February 25, 1821. Its steeple is 166.5 feet high, about 11 ft taller than that of St. Martin, and its interior dome 51 ft in diameter. The foundation of the structure was built on 150 brick and pottery wells - a substitute in south India at that time for pile work used in Europe. According to the architect of the church, Major De Havilland, the steeple withstood a storm lasting 30 hours within three days of its construction.

Describing the church as one of the country's ancient places of worship, Mr. Stalin said it also stood as an example of architectural beauty. Started for the benefit of Scottish people living then in the city, the church was now maintained by the Indian Christian community.

He praised the management of the church for undertaking social welfare schemes to improve the lot of weaker sections of society and pointed out that a school established at the premises of the church later grew into the Madras Christian College, Tambaram.

The Chief Postmaster General of Tamil Nadu Circle, Mr. S. T. Baskaran, said the stamp was the first one featuring a church. "The issuance of this stamp is a tribute to the work of the missionaries in India, to secularism, to the architectural glory of India and heritage of Tamil Nadu".

Referring to the stamps released by the department concerning the history of Christianity in the country, Mr. Baskaran said stamps were issued in honour of St. Thomas in 1964 and 1973. In 1992, a stamp was released in connection with the 150th anniversary of Sisters of Jesus and Mary. Since Independence, at least 10 stamps had been issued on Christian educational institutions.

Rev. R. M. Dravyam, Pastor, Rev. Joe Goodridge, former Pastor, of the church, and Mr. Fred Alberts, secretary of the church's management committee, spoke.

## MAHATMA GANDHI PHILATELIC MUSEUM AT SALEM

by Mr. G. RAM MOHAN

A museum dedicated entirely to the display of philatelic material on Mahatma Gandhi was declared open on 30 January, 1997 at Hasthampatti post Office at Salem in Tamil Nadu. The opening ceremony was performed by Sri. M. Munusamy a veteran Gandhian, and the function was presided over by Sri. S.D. Baskaran, Chief Post Master General, Tamil Nadu Circle. It is the first instance in the country for a post office to have a museum set up in its premises as a memorial to the Father of the Nation.

The idea of setting up such a museum at Hasthampatti post office appears to have originated in September, 1995 during an inspection of the post office by Srimathi. Karthikeyini, the then Post Master General of Western Region under Tamil Nadu Circle. She happened to see a painted board that was planted within the post office compound stating that in the building where the post office is housed at present Mahatma Gandhi had once stayed as a guest of Sri. Natesa Pandaram in the year 1934. On her further enquiry the Sub Post Master Sri. S. Subramanian told her that the building had at one time belonged to Sri. Natesa Pandaram, and that when Mahatma Gandhi stopped at Salem on 14 February, 1934 during a tour of Tamil Nadu, he had stayed in that building as a guest of Sri. Natesa Pandaram. The board has been put up to commemorate that event. Addressing a press conference that evening the PMG announced that she would be taking up the issue of having a museum of philatelic material on Mahatma Gandhi put up at that very building. The idea soon took shape, and finally on 30 January, 1997 the museum was declared open.

The museum is housed in two rooms in the first floor of the two storeyed post office building. The front room has the display of philatelic material, and the rear room has photographs, paintings and water colours depicting the life of Gandhiji. In addition, a 'Charka' used by Gandhiji during his visit to Thiruchengodu in 1934 is displayed in the first room, encased in a glass-fronted box; and in the rear room is kept a reclining chair used by Gandhiji during his stay in that building. There are also some framed photographs, showing Gandhiji with Kasturi Ba, and with his other associates, hung in the front room.

The philatelic material displayed in the front room are in five frames. The first frame starts with an introductory note on the building and its association with Mahatma Gandhi. An extract from the Tamil book 'Tamil Nattil Gandhiji' by Sri. A. Ramaswami is displayed from which it is seen that Gandhiji rested upto 3.00 P.M. (in the afternoon of 14.2.1934) in that building. Beyond that the frame displays a number of Indian commemorative stamps and First Day Covers

issued in memory of Gandhiji. There are different types of interesting cancellations exhibited, one of them depicting the entrance to the house in Porbandar where Gandhiji was born, and another the front elevation of the building of Alfred High School in Rajkot where Gandhiji had his schooling.

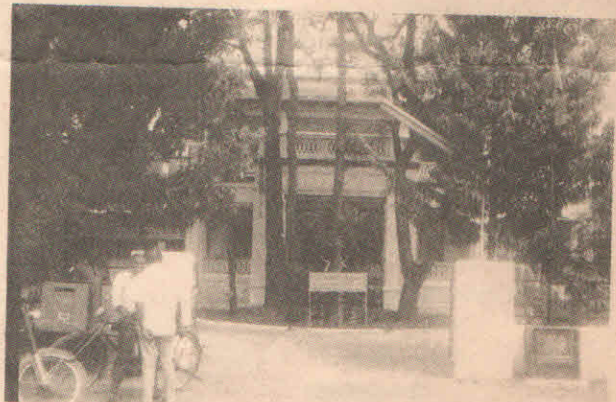
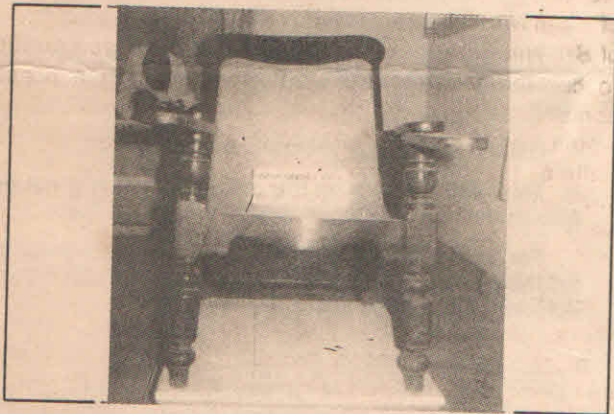
The second and third frames contain further exhibits of Indian stamps and Indian postal stationery on Gandhiji. There is an interesting element in the display of stamps and FDC issued in 1980 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the famous 'Dandi march'. Six numbers of FDCs are displayed, with cancellations from six different post offices, 'at Nadiad, Anand, Bharuch, Surat, Navasari and Dandi, all lying on the route of the 241 mile long march, through which Gandhiji and his followers passed. In the Third Name commemorative postcards and inland letters issued news in India in 1969 to mark the birth centenary of the Mahatma are displayed. There are also FDCs issued on different occasions, carrying photographs of Gandhiji with other leaders like Nehruji, Netaji and Rajaji. The stamps of the definitive series of Gandhiji stamps are also exhibited in the third frame.

The fourth and fifth frames are allotted for philatelic material issued in honour of Gandhiji by other countries. A note displayed in the fourth frame states that "more than 50 countries" have issued

commemorative stamps in honour of Gandhiji. Such stamps from 37 countries are on display in the two frames. A composite block of four stamps of Cameroun titled 'Advocates of Non-Violence', carrying stamps of Martin Luther King, John Kennedy and Robert Kennedy besides that of Gandhiji, catches the eye immediately. So does a composite block of 10 different stamps in miniature sheets issued by Sao Tome and Principe, each showing a great historic personage like Gandhiji, Lenin or Nkrumah.

It appears that there are plans to expand the museum and have more philatelic material on display. A need certainly exists for such expansion. On the day of inauguration of the museum a special FDC was issued with a special cancellation. The cancellation depicts a 'charka' at the centre, and below it Gandhiji's signature as "Bapu" in Tamil and Hindi. It was stated at Hasthampatti post office as a permanent measure.

The Mahatma Gandhi Philatelic Museum has earned for Hasthampatti a place on the philatelic map of India. It is bound to attract visitors not only from among philatelists but also those interested in third there are plans to introduce a special cancellation the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. A good beginning has been made in opening this unique museum; and with further expansion it is bound to gain fame and popularity.



# GUIDANCE AND TIPS ON THEMATIC PHILATELY

- By Rajesh Kumar Bagari

Stamp Collecting or Philately, one of the most popular hobbies of the World, generally finds collectors leaving the hobby at their teenage. The most common reasons of loss of interest being-lack of proper guidance to young collectors about organised and scientific collecting.

Since the last decade one of the most interesting way of collecting stamps has been- "Thematic Philately", meaning collection of stamps connected with a theme. Unlike country collections, a thematic collector is free to pick a theme out of his own desire. Since stamps cover a very wide range of topics, almost any theme can be found on them. The theme chosen hence can be of a Common nature or an innovative one. Some examples are:

Common	Innovative
1. Fish	1. Beards
2. Ships	2. Along the River Rhine
3. Rose	3. Hands
4. Maps	4. Writing Instruments
5. Architecture	5. Crown Jewels

## 1. Selection of theme :

It is very important that the theme be selected with great care and thought, because once a theme is chosen, the process that follows is a slow but very interesting chain of building blocks. The following factors may be kept in mind while making a choice :-

1.1 The collector should select a theme which he personally likes very much and a study of which will enthuse him.

1.2 The collector should be able to develop a proper story line with a scope for developing chapters and sub chapters, for example.

### HORSE

#### Mythology

##### Classification

- Biological
- Geographical
- Grasslands
- Tropicals

#### Life

- Birth
- Growth
- Habits

#### Breeding

- Natural
- Cross Breed

#### Utility

- Transport
- Agriculture

#### Sports

- Racing
- Polo etc. etc.,

To begin with, the scope of the chosen theme may be wide, but later on specialization would help to properly develop the theme. Generally themes having a very wide scope as Sports, Animals, etc. are chosen. But after some years it becomes quite difficult to handle. Collectors generally fall for a wide theme because of a fear to get sufficient material on the subject, It would be advisable to create a more specialised theme like Football, Cricket, Fishes, etc.

1.3 Themes restricted to a particular country are to be generally avoided as after some time the availability of material on the theme will be a problem. A common example "National Monuments". It is better to choose "Archeology" or "Architecture", etc. Which can cover the subject in depth as stated before.

Once the theme is chosen, the process of building up a collection is like creating a new research study or a story developed with the aid of stamps and other philatelic materials. The process is now really a very intricate and exploring one.

## 2. Collection of information

The collector should start collecting all possible information and knowledge about the chosen theme from various sources :-

- Books, Journals, Encyclopaedia
- Shows or events relating to the theme
- Newspapers
- Specialised Societies related to the theme like
  - Motor Sports Association
  - Olympic Association
  - Geographical Society etc.

Without proper and in depth knowledge of the chosen theme the collector will face some very obvious problems like :

- Difficulty in proper thematic development
- Total dependence on the stamp design and not being able to recognise designs directly related to them.

For example for a collector of "Maps" recognising the following related stamps will be quite difficult, without having sufficient knowledge about the theme.



Gerthadus Mercator (1512-1594)-Flemish Cartographer & Geographer, introduced proper projection and map referencing grid system. 'Mercator's Projection' named after him.

Stamps show Mercator, map by him and projection.

### 3. Collection of stamps & other Philatelic Material

Alongwith the collection information on the theme, the collector will have to randomly collect any stamp or philatelic material relating to his theme. The material used may consist of :

#### 3.1 Stamps

The stamps may be used or unused, but should be related to the theme either because of its design or a part of design or its purpose of issue.

#### 3.2 Philatelic Material

- Postmarks & pictorial cancellations
- Postal stationery (Post Cards, Aerograms etc.) generally items which have an imprinted stamp and which can be used without affixing any stamp on the face.
- Design printed on First Day covers and other private covers are to be strictly ignored.
- Use of genuinely travelled postal covers as opposed to first day covers and cancelled to order material.

3.3 Photographs, pictures, Photo copies, coins, extracts and any other material is not allowed and are treated non-philatelic.

### 4. Plan Page & Title

The plan page is like an index to a book. Any collection without a proper plan is neither scientific nor will be able to throw light on the approach taken by the collector to develop his theme. The Plan must be :

#### 4.1 Directly related to the Title

An example is a collection titled "Olympic Games" considering only "Main Events". The title should be suitably altered to show the desired plan e.g "Olympic Events."

4.2 Must be logically developed with a proper order of chapters and sub-chapters.

4.3 Should not be in any chronological order on the basis of issue dates or a mere display on country basis.

### 5. Putting Together

The collected information, stamps and other philatelic material should now be segregated and assorted as per the various Chapters and sub-chapters guided by the Plan.

### 6. Adding Text

- The use of text should be very-very restricted, to highlight -
- The thematic story development
- Explain the philatelic detail

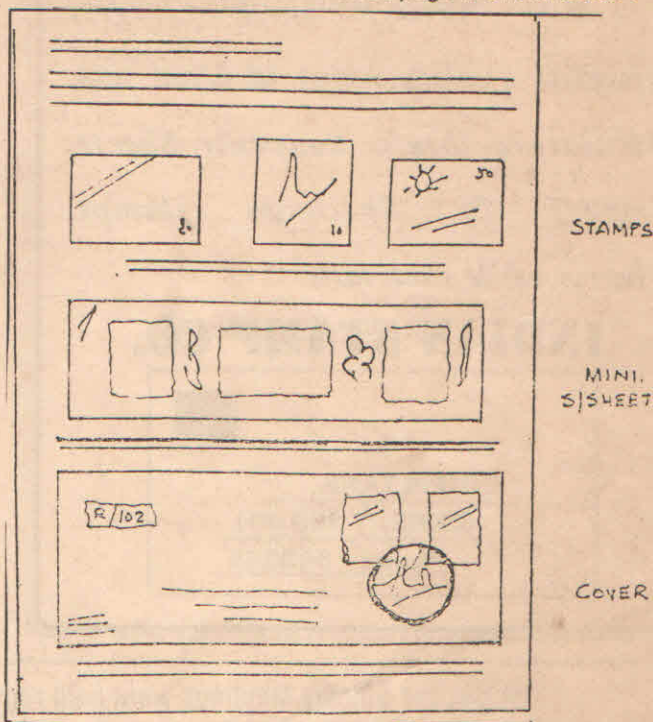
The stamps and material shown should be directly relevant to the chapter subchapter under which it is shown and the same should on their own portray the story. Clarification or building logical connection by short additional text is allowed, but elaborate paragraphs and writing not supported by sufficient philatelic material is prohibited.

### 7. Page Making

The framework is now complete. The text can be either handwritten or typed or computer printed on standard A4 size sheets with due consideration for the -

- aesthetic beauty of the page
- neat presentation
- Avoiding too much or too less in a page

A typical example of a finished page is shown below :



This article has been written to provide a general guideline to aspiring thematic collectors, school teachers, parents and other collectors. Senior Collectors or those desiring to enter for State, National or International Exhibitions should also study and consult the "Guidelines & General Rules of Evaluation of Thematic Collection" (GREV) and also the "Special Rules for evaluating thematic exhibits (SREV), published by the FIP and as revised from time to time.

#### Message from Mr. Robert Footman, JP, Postmaster General, Hong Kong and President of Hong Kong '97 Organising Committee

The Hong Kong '97 Stamp Exhibition is the first ever Asian international stamp exhibition to be organised in Hong Kong. It is organised by the Hong Kong Post Office and co-organised by the Hong Kong Philatelic Society and other local philatelic clubs. It has the support of the Federation of International Philately and patronage of the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately as the 11th Asian International Stamp Exhibition.

Hong Kong'97 aims to sustain the philatelic interest generated in Hong Kong '94 and reinforce Hong Kong's position as one of the world's major centres of philately. The Exhibition is expected to generate considerable interest among local and overseas collectors and provide them with an opportunity to view the world's best exhibits.

I Wish to invite philatelists, philatelic societies, postal administrations and dealers to participate. I look forward to seeing you at Hong Kong '97.